

*Saint Paul (CA-73) in Chongjin Harbor, North Korea, with her 8-inch guns trained toward bombardment targets on 23 May 1952.*

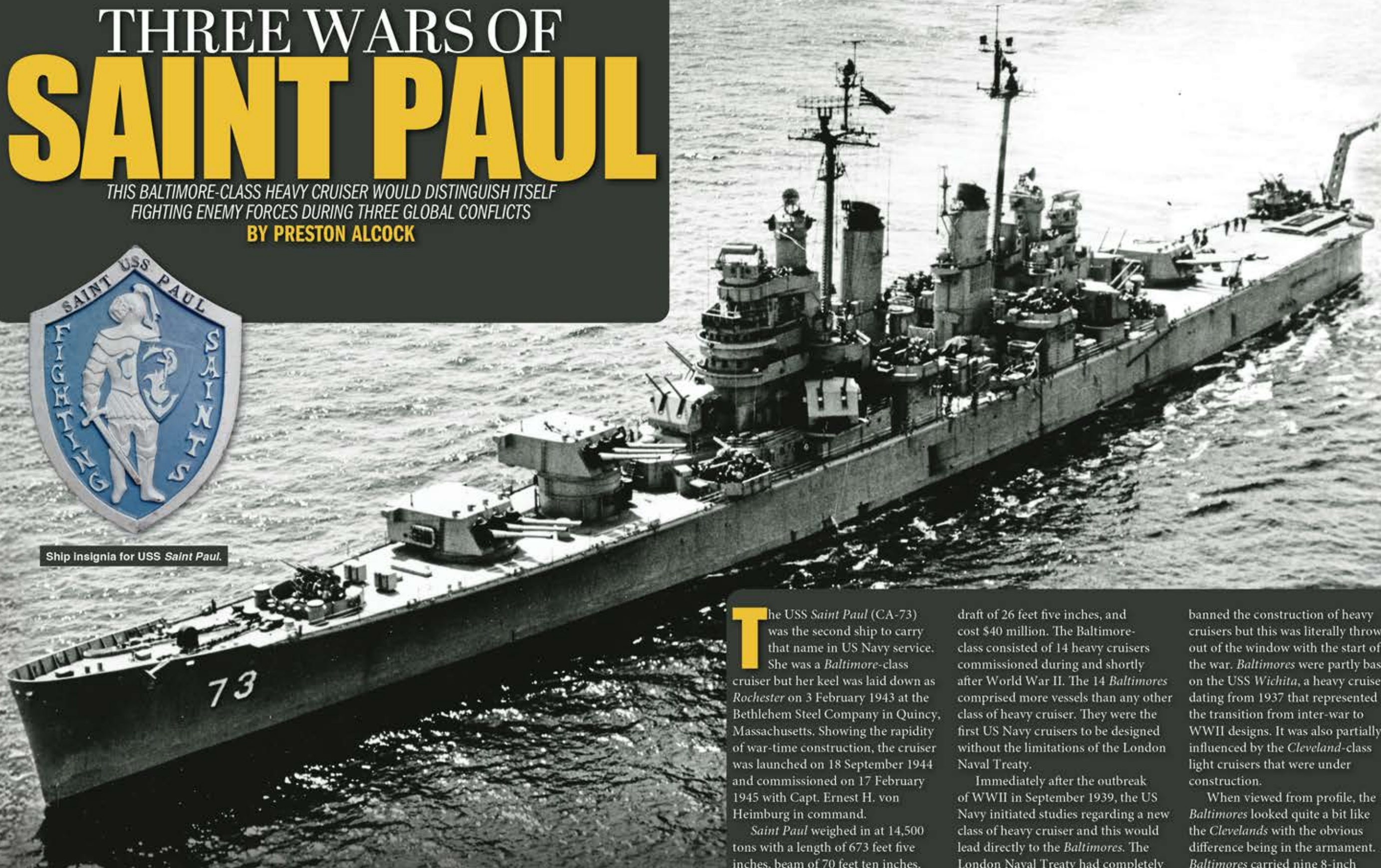
# THREE WARS OF SAINT PAUL

THIS BALTIMORE-CLASS HEAVY CRUISER WOULD DISTINGUISH ITSELF  
FIGHTING ENEMY FORCES DURING THREE GLOBAL CONFLICTS

BY PRESTON ALCOCK



Ship insignia for USS *Saint Paul*.



**T**he USS *Saint Paul* (CA-73) was the second ship to carry that name in US Navy service. She was a *Baltimore*-class cruiser but her keel was laid down as *Rochester* on 3 February 1943 at the Bethlehem Steel Company in Quincy, Massachusetts. Showing the rapidity of war-time construction, the cruiser was launched on 18 September 1944 and commissioned on 17 February 1945 with Capt. Ernest H. von Heimburg in command.

*Saint Paul* weighed in at 14,500 tons with a length of 673 feet five inches, beam of 70 feet ten inches,

draft of 26 feet five inches, and cost \$40 million. The *Baltimore*-class consisted of 14 heavy cruisers commissioned during and shortly after World War II. The 14 *Baltimores* comprised more vessels than any other class of heavy cruiser. They were the first US Navy cruisers to be designed without the limitations of the London Naval Treaty.

Immediately after the outbreak of WWII in September 1939, the US Navy initiated studies regarding a new class of heavy cruiser and this would lead directly to the *Baltimores*. The London Naval Treaty had completely

banned the construction of heavy cruisers but this was literally thrown out of the window with the start of the war. *Baltimores* were partly based on the USS *Wichita*, a heavy cruiser dating from 1937 that represented the transition from inter-war to WWII designs. It was also partially influenced by the *Cleveland*-class light cruisers that were under construction.

When viewed from profile, the *Baltimores* looked quite a bit like the *Clevelands* with the obvious difference being in the armament. *Baltimores* carried nine 8-inch